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Caiman out in style

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NOTICEBOARD



CAIMAN OUT IN STYLE

THE FIRST BLACK CAIMANS TO BE bred in captivity outside their natural home countries were hatched in Aalborg Zoo on 1 May 2013, writes *Trine H Jensen, Jens Sigsgaard, Aalborg Zoo, Denmark.*

Interest in the nest had been noted for a long period and one day the female was on guard just outside the nest area looking very slim. It turned out that 26 eggs had been laid in a mound made of leaves and sand, and they were removed by keepers and placed in an incubator in plastic boxes with vermiculite and water (1:1) at 31-32°C. Of the 26, 24 were fertilised and the first hatched after 89 days, a 30cm long black caiman emerging.

A further 22 successfully hatched, too. The young caimans were fed earthworms regularly from day five after hatching. As they grew older they also received mice.

The parents have been in Aalborg Zoo since February 2011 on loan from Krokodille Zoo, Denmark. The black caimans were both wild collected as new hatched babies in 1997 and 1998 in Ecuador by Krokodille Zoo's extensive involvement in crocodilian conservation projects. Aalborg Zoo started out with 1,2 individuals and after 18 months the smaller female was returned to Krokodille Zoo as the other female became too aggressive.



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REGISTRATIONS FOR EAZA CONFERENCES

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE **2014 EAZA CONSERVATION FORUM** which will be held at Leipzig Zoo. The forum, which is based on the theme 'One Species, One Plan' will take place in the first week of May – for more information and to register, visit www.eaza.net/NEWS/Pages/ConservationForum.aspx.

Registration is also open for the Joint TAG chairs meeting organised by EAZA on behalf of the WAZA Committee for Population Management (CPM). The Joint TAG Chairs meeting is by invitation only and will draw together TAG leaders or their equivalents from across the world to discuss the global integration of efforts to safeguard the future of vulnerable species. The meeting will take place from 1-3 June at Vogelpark Avifauna in Alphen aan de Rijn in

the Netherlands.

The EAZA Mid Year TAG meetings will take place at Vogelpark Avifauna directly after the Joint TAG Chairs Meeting, from 4-6 June. Registration is open to all TAG members from EAZA, and participants in the Joint TAG Chairs Meeting. In addition to the working meetings, there will be opportunities to discuss the involvement of EAZA TAGs in the global initiatives discussed at the Joint TAG Chairs Meeting. Please be careful to register for the EAZA Mid Year TAGs Meeting only unless you have received an invitation to register for the Joint TAG Chairs meeting. For more details on these events, please visit <http://www.eaza.net/News/Pages/Alphen2014.aspx>.